



**State of Connecticut**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
STATE CAPITOL

**REPRESENTATIVE STEPHEN HARDING, JR.**  
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**ASSISTANT HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4200  
300 CAPITOL AVENUE  
HARTFORD, CT 06106

**RANKING MEMBER**  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

March 8, 2022

Senator Cabrera, and Representative Boyd, Senator Cicarella, Representative Vail; and distinguished members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of S.B. 344, An Act Concerning State Contracting Price Preferences for Veteran-Owned Businesses.

I'm submitting testimony today in favor of this proposal, which would extend the 10% set aside for veteran owned businesses, related to State contracts.

Connecticut has been a leader in advocating for our incredible veteran community. Fortunately, our State has recognized the sacrifices these brave men and women have made for our nation. Through policy, we have continuously recognized how appreciative the residents of this State are for their service. This something we should be proud of in Connecticut. Although we should be proud of what we have done thus far, there is far more we can still do to recognize our veterans. One of the initiatives we can and should enact is this proposal.

As the honorable members of this committee are well aware, all the freedoms we enjoy are due to the sacrifices of our veteran community. When these men and women retire from their service and enter into professions outside of the military, they should be recognized for all they have done. This 10% set aside gives us the opportunity, as a State, to do just that.

In closing, I strongly urge the committee to support requiring State Government contracts to have a price preference of 10% for veteran-owned businesses.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S.G. Harding, Jr.".

Stephen G. Harding, Jr.  
Connecticut General Assembly- 107<sup>th</sup> District